

McKENZIE LAW OFFICES, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

June 17, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners,

I am a State Senator serving in the Idaho legislature since 2002. For the last three sessions I have served as Chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee, which oversees, among other things, telecommunications policy within the State of Idaho. I believe that competition drives telecommunications innovation and expanded access, whereas regulation can, in some situations, create barriers to innovation and universal access. For example, in 2005, I was the Senate sponsor of HB225, which allowed deregulation of some incumbent land line telecommunication providers due to the competition from wireless providers. Our experience has shown the benefits of that deregulation to Idaho consumers.

I am writing you in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile, which currently sits before the FCC under Docket No. 11-65. I believe that this merger will benefit Idahoans, especially those in rural areas through expanded mobile broadband coverage. I have been informed that as a condition of the combined AT&T/T-Mobile, over 97 percent of the American population will be covered by 4G LTE mobile service. Expanded high-speed telecommunications benefits Idaho's agricultural economy in many ways, including by access to timely information on the weather, commodity prices, and communications with suppliers. Please keep the interests of rural Idahoans in mind when deliberating the merger.

I am excited at the prospect of expanded, reliable wireless broadband making its way to all parts of Idaho. Please stand with me, with my governor, and others from our state voicing support for this telecom merger. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Curtis McKenzie, Idaho State Senator

Boise (and mailing)
710 W. Franklin
Boise, Idaho 83702

cdm@mckenzielawoffices.com
(208) 344-4379
(208) 331-2150 (facsimile)

Caldwell
704 Blaine Street, Suite 2
Caldwell, Idaho 83606